

section 70.378 of the Act of May 26, 1993 (1993 Mo. Laws 382) and section 5 of Public Act 88-611, Laws of Illinois 1994.

(b) The powers consented to in subsection (a) and conferred by the laws referred to in such subsection shall take effect on January 1, 1995.

SEC. 2. The provisions of the Joint Resolution of August 31, 1950 (64 Stat. 568) shall apply to the additional powers approved under this joint resolution to the same extent as if such additional powers were conferred under the provisions of the compact consented to in such Joint Resolution.

SEC. 3. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this joint resolution is expressly reserved.

SEC. 4. The right is hereby reserved to the Congress to require the disclosure and furnishings of such information or data by the Bi-State Development Agency as is deemed appropriate by the Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] and the gentleman from Rhode Island [Mr. REED] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS].

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows by now, the Constitution of the United States empowers, no, directs the Congress to approve any kind of compact that may be entered into by any of the several States. If more than one State wishes to join with another in a joint venture, the consent of the Congress must be sought and obtained under the Constitution.

So, from time to time, we here in the House, in fact the entire Congress has to entertain importunings from various States to approve such compacts.

Back in 1950 there was such a compact approved by the Congress between Missouri and Illinois having to do with a joint venture across the river that divides them, and that compact was approved. That had to do with planning, development, et cetera. Now, the two States have found reason to come back to the Congress because one of the agencies that they empowered began operating a light-rail transit system and requested that the respective legislatures authorize it to appoint or employ a security force to prevent fare evasion and other misconduct on the system.

So, the Illinois Legislature and the Missouri Legislature did exactly that, passed their own concurrent legislation, as it were, which they referred to us for our consent, and that is the gist of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that the Congress approve it with first a vote here in the House. Our subcommittee and the full committee approved the passing of this legislation and have brought it to this stage in the legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill. I know of no objections to this legislation. House Joint Resolution 78

seeks congressional approval for additional powers conferred on the Bi-State Development Agency of Missouri and Illinois by those two State legislatures. These additional powers involve the jurisdiction of various local police officers to make arrests on the light-rail system and the agency's efforts to prosecute fare evaders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge speedy passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 78, of which I am a cosponsor. This legislation is necessary to give enforcement authority to the Bi-State Development Agency, the local organization that operates the mass transit system in the St. Louis metropolitan region. Bi-State was originally established by the States of Illinois and Missouri and approved by the U.S. Congress. However, that compact did not give Bi-State the authority to appoint or employ a security force or to enact rules and regulations governing fare evasion and other conduct.

As Bi-State has expanded from providing transit via buses to the large-scale and widely known success of the MetroLink light rail system, its needs have changed. With its growth and new responsibilities, the agency now requires more authority to enact rules and regulations on fare collection and to employ a security force. MetroLink passengers currently pay fares through a barrier-free, self-service, proof-of-payment system. This system, while successful, needs a consistent enforcement policy to ensure fare compliance.

The agency does not currently have the authority to enact these rules under the original compact approved by the U.S. Congress. Because both the Illinois and Missouri Legislatures have acted to extend Bi-State's authority and because local officials and Members of Congress from the region support the change, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this legislation.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, House Joint Resolution 78, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the joint resolution just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

HISTORIC CHATTAHOOCHEE COMPACT

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2064) to grant the consent of Congress to an amendment of the historic Chattahoochee compact between the States of Alabama and Georgia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2064

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO THE HISTORIC CHATTAHOOCHEE COMPACT BETWEEN THE STATES OF ALABAMA AND GEORGIA.

The consent of Congress is given to the amendment of articles I, II, and III of the Historic Chattahoochee Compact between the States of Alabama and Georgia, which articles, as amended, read as follows:

"ARTICLE I

"The purpose of this compact is to promote the cooperative development of the Chattahoochee valley's full potential for historic preservation and tourism and to establish a joint interstate authority to assist in these efforts.

"ARTICLE II

"This compact shall become effective immediately as to the States ratifying it whenever the States of Alabama and Georgia have ratified it and Congress has given consent thereto.

"ARTICLE III

"The States which are parties to this compact (hereinafter referred to as 'party States') do hereby establish and create a joint agency which shall be known as the Historic Chattahoochee Commission (hereinafter referred to as the 'Commission'). The Commission shall consist of 28 members who shall be bona fide residents and qualified voters of the party States and counties served by the Commission. Election for vacant seats shall be by majority vote of the voting members of the Commission board at a regularly scheduled meeting. In Alabama, two shall be residents of Barbour County, two shall be residents of Russell County, two shall be residents of Henry County, two shall be residents of Chambers County, two shall be residents of Lee County, two shall be residents of Houston County, and two shall be residents of Dale County. In Georgia, one shall be a resident of Troup County, one shall be a resident of Harris County, one shall be a resident of Muscogee County, one shall be a resident of Chattahoochee County, one shall be a resident of Stewart County, one shall be a resident of Randolph County, one shall be a resident of Clay County, one shall be a resident of Quitman County, one shall be a resident of Early County, one shall be a resident of Seminole County, and one shall be a resident of Decatur County. In addition, there shall be three at-large members who shall be selected from any three of the Georgia member counties listed above. The Commission at its discretion may appoint as many advisory members as it deems necessary from any Georgia or Alabama County, which is located in the Chattahoochee Valley area. The contribution of each party State shall be in equal amounts. If the party States fail to appropriate equal amounts to the Commission during any given fiscal year, voting membership on the Commission board shall be determined as follows: The State making the larger appropriation shall be entitled to full voting membership. The total number of members from the other State shall be divided into the amount of the larger appropriation and the resulting quotient

shall be divided into the amount of the smaller appropriation. The then resulting quotient, rounded to the next lowest whole number, shall be the number of voting members from the State making the smaller contribution. The members of the Commission from the State making the larger contribution shall decide which of the members from the other State shall serve as voting members, based upon the level of tourism, preservation, promotional activity, and general support of the Commission's activities by and in the county of residence of each of the members of the State making the smaller appropriation. Such determination shall be made at the next meeting of the Commission following September 30 of each year. Members of the Commission shall serve for terms of office as follows: Of the 14 Alabama members, one from each of said counties shall serve for two years and the remaining member of each county shall serve for four years. Upon the expiration of the original terms of office of Alabama members, all successor Alabama members shall be appointed for four-year terms of office, with seven vacancies in the Alabama membership occurring every two years. Of the 14 Georgia members, seven shall serve four-year terms and seven two-year terms for the initial term of this compact. The terms of the individual Georgia voting members shall be determined by their place in the alphabet by alternating the four- and two-year terms beginning with Chattahoochee County, four years, Clay County, two years, Decatur County, four years, etc. Upon the expiration of the original terms of office of Georgia members, all successor Georgia members shall be appointed for four-year terms of office, with seven vacancies in the Georgia membership occurring every two years. Of the three Georgia at-large board members, one shall serve a four-year term and two shall serve two-year terms.

"All board members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Vacancies shall be filled by the voting members of the Commission. The first chairman of the commission created by this compact shall be elected by the board of directors from among its voting membership. Annually thereafter, each succeeding chairman shall be selected by the members of the Commission. The chairmanship shall rotate each year among the party States in order of their acceptance of this compact. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of the Commission."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] and the gentleman from Rhode Island [Mr. REED] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS].

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the question recurs on the need for congressional action on a compact that has heretofore been entered into between two States. In this particular case, the instant legislation is one where a contract or compact had been entered into between Alabama and Georgia as required by our Constitution.

The problem was that in 1978 when they created this Historic Chattahoochee Commission, a Bi-State Heritage and Tourism Agency which serves 11 Georgia and 7 Alabama counties along the Lower Chattahoochee River, the

States recently found that they wanted to change the nomination process for the commission's board, so in 1993 they each enacted an amendment, Georgia on the one hand, Alabama on the other hand. Their legislatures acted, and now they come to us to seek approval through the constitutional process.

We in the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law heard testimony on this legislation and reported it to the full Committee on the Judiciary on October 19. The Committee on the Judiciary reported favorably on the bill by voice vote, and we are here.

Neither I nor anyone that I know of has any objection to the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again I rise in support of this legislation. I know of no objections to this legislation. As the gentleman from Pennsylvania has explained, H.R. 2064 amends the Chattahoochee compact between the States of Alabama and Georgia to change the method for filling vacancies on the Historic Chattahoochee Commission. The bill was introduced by the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. EVERETT], along with the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BEVILL], the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BISHOP], the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BROWDER], the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CRAMER], and the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD].

Mr. Speaker, I urge its passage and I am glad that I can participate in this historic event.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. EVERETT], who was instrumental in bringing this matter to the attention of the House of Representatives.

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, the Historic Chattahoochee Commission is involved in activities to promote tourism in the lower Chattahoochee River area, that encompasses 7 counties in Alabama and 11 counties in Georgia. The commission has been very successful in these endeavors, which prompted the National Trust for Historic Preservation to identify this commission as a model heritage tourism organization.

The legislation before the House, H.R. 2064, grants congressional consent to approve the changes made by the Alabama and Georgia Legislatures in 1993 to an interstate compact. The changes made to the compact simplify the way the Historic Chattahoochee Commission appoints its board members. Currently, the 28 board members, 14 from each State, are appointed by a cumbersome process involving an historical commission or similar body of each county to make the appointment.

The problem is that some counties do not have an historical organization, while other counties have several historical organizations, which has led to

confusing and time consuming proceedings.

This legislation amends the process by making the election of commissioners to vacant seats by majority vote of the voting members of the commission. Some members are nonvoting.

Since Congress originally approved this compact back in 1978, both the Alabama and Georgia attorneys general have determined that the Historic Chattahoochee Commission cannot use the amended appointment process without the approval of Congress. This legislation is obviously supported by the States of Alabama and Georgia, and I am aware of no opposition.

Mr. Speaker, these changes will certainly enable the commission to place more of their efforts on promoting tourism in this area of Alabama and Georgia, and I urge the swift adoption of this legislation.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I note an overwhelming absence of other speakers and, therefore, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2064.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule 1, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

CONDEMN BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 149) condemning terror attacks in Israel, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES 149

Whereas, on February 25, 1996, two vicious terror attacks in Jerusalem and Ashkelon killed 2 American citizens and 25 Israelis, and wounded over 75 more;

Whereas, on February 26, 1996, an Israeli citizen was killed and 22 Israelis were injured when a terrorist drove a rental car into a Jerusalem bus stop;

Whereas, on March 3, 1996, a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem took the lives of 18 innocent Israelis and other individuals and injured 10 more;

Whereas, on March 4, 1996, yet another heinous explosion by a suicide bomber in Tel